European Union Countries:

Quantity: MTs.
Value: Rs. in lakhs

	1996-97		1997-98 (April—August, '97)*	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Rice	61464	14360.92	44227	10838.27
Soyabean products (exlcuding soya extaction)	0.5	0.11	—	—
Oil Extraction (including Soyabean Extactions)	471013	2843721	125200	5346.25

*Provisional.

SOURCE: DGCI&S, CALCUTTA

Country-wise details of exports are given in the monthly bulletin/annual numbers of Foreign Trade Statistics of India published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

Some of the steps taken to enhance exports of agricultural products include participation in international trade fairs; arranging buyer-seller meets; conducting market development campaigns; and providing assistance for product development.

Impact on Country's Exports following appreciation in Rupee value

652. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the cumulative percentage of appreciation of rupee value since 1993;

(b) what is the overall impact on the country's exports with the gradual appreciation in rupee value stating the annual decline in the exports in foreign exchange;

(c) what is the targeted growth in the country's export during 1997-98; and

(d) in what way Governmetn think that the targeted growth of exports for 1997-98 would be achieved taking in view the exports performace so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Indian Rupee depreciation in nominal terms by 14.7% against US Dollar in October 1997 compared with January, 1993.

(b) Exchange rate is one among many factors which affects exports and it is difficult to quantify the individual impact of any one factor. Exports have so far not registered any decline, during the last five years in value-terms, only the export growth rate have decelarated during 1996-97 and 1997-98 (April—September) when expots grew by 4.1% and 4.2 respectively.

(c) and (d) A target growth of 18% in US$ terms has been envisaged for exports during 1997-98. Export promotion measures are continuously being taken by the Government through policy and promotional schemes. A number of measures have been taken by the Government recently including decisions on trade matters and inter-ministerial policy issues pursuant to Prime Minister's Meeting in June 1997 and in the newly created Export Promotion Board.

Trade with Pakistan through Wagha and Atari Border

655. SHRI KRISHAN KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Government propose to expand trade with Pakistan by

opening land routes through Wagha and Atari Border;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the implication involved in the land route trade from the point of its vulnerability to smugglers and militants; and

(c) if so, what is the decision, if any, taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) Requests from Indian trade and Industry for opening up of land route through Wagha-Atari boder for overland trade with Pakistan are being examined, in the first place, in consultation with all concerned Government agencies.

Shortfall in Export of Spices

654. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a shortfall in the export of spices during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are proposing to take some remedial steps to contain this shortfall; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Decline in Export of Tea

655. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether steep decrease in export of Indian Tea has been reported during 1996-97;

(b) if so, reasons therefor with names of producing States affected from such decrease;

(c) whether Government propose to take some immediate steps to boost export of Indian tea in 1997-98 and onwards; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Exports of tea from India during 1996-97 have been of the order of 162.86 million kgs. (estimated) valued at Rs. 1231.85 crores as compared to 163.65 million kgs. during 1995-96 valued at Rs. 1191.19 crores indicating thereby an inprovement in export earnings during 1996-97 despite marginal shortfall in volume of exports.

(c) and (d) Government and the Tea Board have been analysing coutry-wise exports of tea giving special attention to areas offering potential. Tea Board also acts to remove bottlenecks in exports to individual markets whenever these are noticed.

Other steps taken to increase exports of Indian Tea include (a) participation in major trade fairs/exhibitions abroad; (ii) media campaign to increase consumer awareness of speciality of Indian tea and campaign to pupularise the Tea Board's marketing symbol which stands for pure Indian tea.

Prospects of domestic vanaspati makers in Indo-Nepal Trade

656. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in The Economic Times dated 23.8.97 captioned "Indo-Nepal Trade puts the lid on domestic vanaspati makers"; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?